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BOROUGH OF BRIDLINGTON

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1939.

by

P. D. H. CHAPMAN,

M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.) Acting Medical Officer of Health.

including

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR**

by

F. W. O'HARA, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.



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**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF
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F. W. O'HARA, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Health Committee.

Chairman :

Councillor T. M. LIDDLE.

Members :

THE MAYOR (Alderman J. W. ROBSON, J.P.).	
Alderman A. E. FLIGG	Councillor T. R. JEMISON
Councillor H. R. MILNER	Councillor J. NEWBY.
(Deputy-Chairman).	
Councillor T. D. FENBY, J.P., C.A.	Councillor R. MAW

Health Sub-Committee :

Councillor T. M. LIDDLE	Councillor T. D. FENBY, J.P., C.A.
Councillor H. R. MILNER	Councillor J. NEWBY

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. H. HARKER	Mrs. J. A. STEPHENSON
Mrs. J. H. AMERY	Mrs. A. E. FLIGG

Town Clerk.

GEORGE MELVIN.

Medical Officer of Health :

EDWARD T. COLVILLE, M.D., M.B., B.S. (Hons.), B.Hy., D.P.H.

Acting Medical Officer of Health :

P. D. H. CHAPMAN, M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.).

Borough Engineer :

A. EVERINGHAM, M.R.S.I.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

F. W. O'HARA, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Health Visitors :

Miss W. N. SLACK, H.V.Cert., C.M.B., S.R.N., R.S.I.
Miss E. SMITH, H.V. Cert., C.M.B., S.R.N.

Matron—Sanatorium :

Miss D. K. LEACH, S.R.F.N.

SUMMARY OF HEALTH REPORT FOR 1939.

General Statistics.

Borough	Borough of Bridlington
Area (acres)	5,703
Population :	
1931 Census (corrected for non-residents).....	19,417
1939 Registrar General	* (a) 22,020
	* (b) 22,720
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	4,776
Total number of Dwellings (Census 1931)	5,148
Number of Dwellings, 1939 (estimated)	—
Number of Uninhabited Houses, 1939 (estimated).....	—
Rateable Value	£212,555
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£814
Density of Population per acre	3.9
Total Births	(a) 289
	(b) 309
Birth-rate	13.07
Total Deaths	341
Death-rate	15.0
Comparability Factor to correct age and sex distribution in the Borough. Census 1931	0.80
Corrected death-rate	12.0
Deaths of infants under one year of age	12
(Legitimate 12, Illegitimate 0)	
Infantile Mortality	38.8 per 1,000 Births
Number of Illegitimate Births	29
Percentage of total births.....	10%
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age	2
Cancer Death-rate	2.0 per 1,000 of the Population
Phthisis Death-rate	0.30 per 1,000 of the Population.

* (a) Population for Birth-rate.

* (b) Population for Death-rate and Infectious Diseases.

Health Department,
Town Hall,
Bridlington.

January, 1940.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough
of Bridlington.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Interim Report
on the Health Services of the Borough for the year 1939.

The Ministry of Health circular 2067 of February, 1940,
states that, in the opinion of the Minister of Health, interim
reports only should be made for the year 1939 and that these
reports should contain only essential and urgent matter
connected with the public health especially such as arise from
or are connected with the war.

All records and statistics are to be preserved in order
that after the War, a report can be made dealing more fully
with the war years.

I have carried out this recommendation and this Report
will not therefore contain the usual statistics and analyses of
births and deaths and infectious diseases.

This then is an interim report compiled by your interim
Medical Officer of Health.

I take this opportunity of thanking the members of the
Committee for their valuable assistance, consideration and
support, and have pleasure in recording my grateful thanks to
every member of the staffs of the Health and other Depart-
ments for their co-operation and loyal assistance.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. D. H. CHAPMAN.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Lloyd Hospital.

This is a voluntary hospital and since the War comes under the supervision of the Hospital Officer of a very large area with headquarters at Leeds. It was decided that this Hospital should carry on without change. Hospital accommodation was increased at Driffield and Beverley and the scheme is that the Lloyd Hospital shall receive serious casualties from war operations, both civil and military, and transfer them subsequently to Driffield. Consultants are available through the Emergency Medical Services.

The Avenue Hospital.

This Hospital is administered by the Public Health Committee of the East Riding County Council.

On the outbreak of war 34 beds were set aside for expectant mothers from Hull, and 41 of these cases were admitted during the last quarter of the year. The new Maternity Block was opened officially by the Rt. Hon. Walter Elliot, Minister of Health, on February 11th, 1939.

Infectious Diseases Hospital.

This is maintained by the Local Authority and cases are also admitted from the Bridlington Rural District by agreement with that Authority, from the East Riding County Area if requested, and by arrangement from the Air Force.

Some improvements were recommended in the heating of the wards, better accommodation for the staff and a larger drying room were also advised. Unfortunately, although the Health Committee approved these suggestions, difficulties in the supply of raw materials may prevent the work being carried out.

A new Thresh disinfecter was bought to replace the old disinfecter which had become unsafe.

A mechanical respirator was provided for the Hospital by the munificence of Lord Nuffield. This machine was the means of saving the life of a patient suffering from respiratory paralysis. The patient was in the iron lung for thirty-six hours and at the end of that time normal respiration was restored.

STAFF. An additional trained Fever Nurse was advised and approved. The nursing staff now consists of Matron, Sister, one trained nurse, two probationers and one untrained nurse. Full equipment for a block of twelve beds, previously only partially furnished, was provided. This was done in order that the Sanatorium might be able to provide extra hospital beds in an emergency due to war operations. The total number of beds and cots available is 42.

The following cases were admitted :

	Admitted.	Died.
Scarlet Fever	45	1
Diphtheria	28	3
Erysipelas	1	—
Measles	2	—
German Measles	2	—
Chickenpox	1	—
Undulant Fever	1	—
Paratyphoid	15	1
Respiratory Paralysis	1	—
Scabies	55	—
Impetigo	1	—

Included in the above figures there were 32 admissions from the Bridlington Rural District and 9 from the R.A.F. Camps.

Tuberculosis.

There is no change in the facilities provided for the treatment of Tuberculosis.

Maternity.

The Maternity Block of the Avenue Hospital admitted 290 cases during the year. Of these, 34 were cases of expectant mothers from Hull.

Orthopaedic.

There is no change in the arrangements for orthopaedic treatment.

Ambulance Facilities.

These are given in the section dealing with A.R.P.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Evacuees.

Bridlington being a Reception Area during 1939, there was a large influx of mothers and of children both from Hull and Middlesbrough.

Everyone knows that the habits, the personal hygiene and the nutrition of very many of the children, were a national disgrace. Bridlington had its full share in coping with the problems caused by the evacuation.

The staffs of the Child Welfare Centre and of the School Clinic were augmented by a nurse from Middlesbrough and a nurse from Hull. The vermin were quickly got rid of, the impetigo was treated and soon the children began to improve in health. The unaccustomed good food later caused many children to suffer from boils. The kindness and hard work of many householders and members of voluntary organisations such as the Women's Voluntary Service, were beyond all praise. In consequence of this unselfish help by the people of Bridlington it was not found necessary to provide Sick Bay accommodation for cases of minor illness.

A special problem arose as a result of the prevalence of Scabies or The Itch. The skin disease, due to the activities of a female parasite, required special measures. It was found by experience that the best method was to transfer all affected members of a household to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Thus, if a child was found at the Child Welfare Clinic, or at the School Clinic, to be suffering from Scabies, a nurse was sent to examine the other members of the household. All the affected members were then taken to the Infectious Diseases Hospital with their clothes and bedding. This method very largely prevented the occurrence of relapses after return from Hospital together with their clothes and bedding. This method very largely prevented the occurrence of relapses after return from Hospital. These relapses are in most cases re-infections. Of the various remedies, the alcoholic solution of Benzyl Ben-serate and soft soap was found to be the best. Between September 1st and December 31st 47 cases of Scabies were treated in this manner, 22 from Hull and 25 from Middlesbrough.

The following are the figures of reception from Middlesbrough and Hull :—

	Received in September	Remaining on December 31st
Expectant mothers	70	2
Children	2,104	881
Crippled Children	79	30

Two School Nurses and one Masseur were lent by the Authorities of the Evacuation Areas. A complete school for crippled children was evacuated from Hull to this Town. Most of the crippled children were found to be suffering from Scabies and it proved a difficult job to rid the School of this complaint. It was only successfully accomplished in 1940. In this case, at any rate, the parents could not be blamed for the condition of the children.

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Arrangements have been made for specialistic advice and treatment of visual defects such as squint in children under five years of age.

School Clinics.

There has been no change in the arrangements. Owing to the reception of 2104 children, the amount of work done increased very greatly. That the physical well being of these evacuated children greatly improved is not denied by anyone and the work done at the School Clinic had its share in this good result. A detailed School Report has been made by Dr. W. O. C. Jarratt, School Medical Officer.

Public Health Staff.

The following changes were effected in the Staff. On September 14th, Dr. Colville was called up for Military service under the Director General of Hygiene. The Council decided that during his absence the work of the Medical Officer of Health should be done by myself and that of the School Medical Officer by Dr. W. O. C. Jarratt. This arrangement was approved by the Ministry of Health.

Miss D. K. Leach was appointed Matron of the Sanatorium *vice* Miss Thompson who resigned in April, 1939.

In addition, Mr. Graham, Additional Sanitary Inspector, was appointed A.R.P. Officer to the Borough, and Mr. K. O. Batten, Additional Sanitary Inspector was called up for military duty.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer,
Port Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent
Maternity and Child Welfare, and Isolation
Hospital.

E. T. Colville, M.D., M.B., B.S.(Hons.), B.Hy., D.P.H.

Acting Medical Officer of Health, Port Medical
Officer Medical Superintendent Maternity and
Child Welfare, and Isolation Hospital

P. D. H. Chapman, M.B., B.Ch.

Acting School Medical Officer W. O. C. Jarratt,
M.B., B.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Housing Inspector,
Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act.

F. W. O'Hara, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.C.A.G.S.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

T. Ramsbottom, R.S.I., Meat and Other Foods Cert.

K. O. Batten, Cert.S.I.B., Meat and Other Foods Cert.

Matron, Infectious Diseases Hospital :

Miss D. K. Leach, S.R.F.N.

Health Visitors :

Miss E. Smith, H.V.Cert., C.M.B., S.R.N.

Miss W. M. Slack, H.V.Cert., C.M.B., S.R.N.

Clerk, Sanitary Department ... K. Coupland.

Pupil Clerical Assistant, Sanitary Department . J. G. Scott.

Clerk, Health Department and School Clinic.

Miss V. Watson.

Water.

Routine analysis of the water supply has been carried out
as usual.

In August, Dr. Colville recommended that chlorinating
plants should be provided at the Corporation Waterworks.
This recommendation was not approved.

Sewage Disposal.

The big sewerage scheme has been held up by the outbreak of war.

Housing.

The following relates to the number of houses erected by the Corporation under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts :—

Total number of houses for the working classes owned by the Corporation and erected under the Housing Acts	635
--	-----

No houses were erected by the Corporation in 1939.

Camping.

New rules for camping grounds have been drawn up. The threat of war and its final outbreak prevented the majority of campers from enjoying their annual holiday.

Infectious Diseases. Notified.

Scarlet Fever	31
Diphtheria	16
Enteric Fever	18
Pneumonia	13
Encephalitis Lethargica	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Measles	31
Whooping Cough	3

Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable as from October, 1939.

Tuberculosis.

The Register of Tuberculosis for the Borough for the year was as follows :—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1st January, 1939 ...	28	33	9	12	37	45
31st December, 1939	28	41	8	16	36	57

Bacteriological Examination of Specimens.

During the year the following specimens have been submitted for bacteriological examination :—

Sent by Medical Practitioners.

	Results	
	Positive.	Negative.
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	6	118
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	13	91
Serological Tests	17	39
Urine for Tubercle Bacilli	—	7
Urine for Enterica	—	4
Urine Organisms	1	—
Faeces for Enterica.....	3	6
Faeces for Tubercle Bacilli	—	3
Faeces for Dysentery	2	7
Pleural Fluid for Tubercle	—	5
C.S.F. Organisms	—	4
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	1	3
Biological Test	—	7
Blood Culture	—	1
Hairs for Ringworm	—	1
Other Bacteriological Examinations	4	—

Sent by Medical Officer of Health.

Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	9	71
Faeces for Enterica	12	10
Urine for Enterica	—	3
Serological Test	2	1
Blood Culture	—	1
Hairs for Ringworm	—	1
Other Bacteriological Examinations	1	—

BOROUGH OF BRIDLINGTON.

REPORT OF SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Health Department,
Town Hall,
Bridlington.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Bridlington.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my second Annual Report, very much curtailed, which contains particulars of the work carried out in my department during the year ended 31st December, 1939.

A great deal of extra work has again resulted from Air Raid Precautions, and this has been augmented since the commencement of hostilities.

Inspections.

Total number of inspections and visits for all purposes amounted to 8221.

Of these 7294 were made in connection with sanitary matters; 1437 were made in connection with food premises and 90 were made in connection with cowsheds and dairies.

Notices Served.

257 Preliminary Notices were served, in addition to which a large number of letters were sent to owners, agents and occupiers requesting them to abate nuisances and carry out sanitary improvements,

1 Statutory Notice was served during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

Total number of water closets within the Borough ...	9481
Total number of dustbins within the Borough	8072
Total number of houses with earth closets within the Borough	169
Total number of dwelling houses within the Borough...	7431

Housing.

Total number of houses erected during the year.

- (1) By private enterprise 108.
- (2) By the Corporation Nil.

Two houses have been demolished during the year as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

SECTION D.

The following table gives the particulars of action taken under the provisions of the Housing Acts, 1925-36.

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.

- (i) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 1604
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1774
- (ii) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 87
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 23
- (iii) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 73
- (iv) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 10

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	223
--	-----

3. (a) No proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) The number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	247
---	-----

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners	2
---------------------	---

(b) By the Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.
---	------

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

Demolition Orders were made in respect of 12 houses ; 2 have been demolished.

No proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding.

There is no serious overcrowding in the Borough.

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

There are 58 cowsheds in the Borough.

Visits and Inspections.

Visits to cowsheds, milkshops and dairies	90
Number of defects found	19
Number of defects remedied	19

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

There are 7 dealers, 3 Supplementary and 1 Producer licenced to sell designated milk.

Milk Samples.

73 samples of milk have been submitted to the North Riding Laboratories for bacteriological and biological examination; the majority of which were in connection with a paratyphoid outbreak.

Water Supply.

During the year 30 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Those obtained from the public supply were satisfactory. 2 taken from wells in the rural district (which have since been closed) contained B. Typhosus organisms.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are 15 slaughterhouses in the Borough.

Notices have been served on owners at 10 of these slaughterhouses to affect repairs before licencing under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

3131 visits and re-visits were made to slaughterhouses.

790 visits were paid to Markets and the food exposed for sale inspected.

52 visits were made to the Cattle Market for the purpose of carrying out ante-mortem examination of the animals which are offered for sale.

Post-mortem examination of animals purchased by meat traders in the Borough is regularly carried out, and the humane killer is used for stunning all animals.

TABLE 6.
Carcases Inspected and Condenned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1940	121	174	10161	3955
Number Inspected	1940	121	174	10161	3955
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses con- demned	1	1	—	12	3
Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	107	8	—	52	73
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.79	6.35	—	4.91	1.85
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses con- demned	8	3	—	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	63	12	—	—	119
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.41	9.52	—	—	3.01

Ice Cream.

47 premises are registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream and 78 persons registered as purveyors.

Offensive Trades.

There are 25 fried fish shops in the Borough ; 1 tripe boiler and 1 knackers yard.

173 visits have been made to these premises.

Nuisances found have been abated.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The provisions of this Act are administered by the East Riding County Council, who have an officer for this purpose.

Complaints of a serious nature are referred to him, Otherwise local assistance is given in the eradication of rats and mice.

Camping Sites.

There are 10 camping sites in the Borough.

Licences for camps are issued under the Bridlington Corporation Act, 1933.

Shops Act, 1934, and Public Health Act, 1936.

30 visits were made to shops.

Shops generally have been found up to the required standard. In 1 case a water closet was provided after verbal intimation.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Bed bugs present no serious problem in this Borough. The method of disinfection is the same as that outlined in 1938.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 255 factories within the Borough, to which 156 visits have been made.

Public Cleansing.

Four Shelvoke and Drewry refuse collecting vehicles were delivered in May, 1939; displacing 2 tractors and 8 trailers. It was still found necessary to use 1 tractor and 2 trailers during the month of August in order to cope with the extra refuse.

All houses except those on the outskirts of the Borough are provided with galvanized iron dustbins and during the Summer months nearly 13,000 bins were emptied per week.

The trade refuse scheme which came into force on the 6th April, 1939, worked very smoothly between the Corporation and the Shopkeepers.

An interview with the shopkeeper explaining the provisions of the Act, helped towards the efficient working of the scheme. Coupons value 3d. are bought at my office and handed by the shopkeeper to the refuse collector when the trade refuse is removed. A sum of £73 was derived therefrom.

All the house refuse is tipped at Fond Brigg Lane in layers of 6 to 8 feet in depth.

Controlled tipping is strictly adhered to, the refuse is covered with soil, and after allowing for settlement, the sides and top are grassed down.

In one part of the land a very successful attempt was made when cabbages were planted on land where house refuse had been tipped twelve months ago and an income of nearly £4 derived therefrom.

Trade refuse is collected with a horse drawn wagon. All clean paper is taken to the Corporation Depot, Portland Place, baled and sold. All unsaleable material is deposited at Fond Brigg Lane Tip.

The house refuse is not passed over a weigh bridge. The weight of refuse collected and disposed of is from test weighings.

The details of the collection and disposal of house and trade refuse for the year ending 31st March, 1939, are as follows. The figures are taken from the Corporation ledgers

TABLE 8.

House and Trade Refuse Account for the year ended 31st March, 1939.

	COLLECTION		DISPOSAL		TOTAL	
	Including Depreciation on Loan Charges.	Excluding Loan Charges.	Including Depreciation on Loan Charges.	Excluding Loan Charges.	Including Depreciation on Loan Charges.	Excluding Loan Charges.
Revenue Account.	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross Expenditure	5189	5189	1406	1045	6595	6234
Gross Income	—	—	140	140	140	140
Net Cost	5189	5189	1266	905	6455	6094
Unit Costs.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Gross Expenditure per ton	11 8.6	11 8.6	3 2.1	2 4.3	14 10.7	14 0.9
Gross Income per ton ...	Nil	Nil	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Net Cost per ton	11 8.6	11 8.6	2 10.3	2 0.5	14 6.9	13 9.1
Net Cost per 1,000 population	£236	£236	£57	£41	£293	£277
Net Cost per 1,000 houses	£637	£637	£155	£111	£792	£748

Total refuse collected (T) 8857 tons. Population 22,020. Area 5703 acres.

and are the latest complete details available which permit of the unit costs being ascertained.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Medical Officer and acting Medical Officer of Health and my Staff for the invaluable assistance given me during the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. O'HARA.

